

Illinois passed the first eight-hour law for workers in 1903.

MONTEREY COUNTY

LABOR NEWS

VOL. XI—NO. 40 | SALINAS, CALIF., TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1949 | WHOLE NO. 556

Teamster Kiddie Klub Show Set for Saturday

Next motion picture show for the Kiddies Klub of Teamsters Union 890 will be held at the Salinas High School Auditorium at 10 a.m. this Saturday (June 4), according to union officials. Albert A. Harris, president of Local 890, who has been active in arranging these free shows for the children, issued the following statement in behalf of the Teamsters Kiddies Klub:

"To All Kiddies:

May we call to your attention that the next Kiddies Klub show will be held June 4, 10 a.m. at the High School Auditorium.

Those of you who have children that have not attended these shows, must encourage them to attend as they will certainly enjoy two hours of good clean entertainment, plus many prizes.

Puppies and kittens have been given away which were furnished by the Sugar Valley Pet Center, 276 E. Alisal Street. Our union expresses its thanks to the Pet Center for their cooperation. We urge our members who need supplies or food for their pets to patronize the Sugar Valley Pet Center as they have been 100 per cent cooperative in furnishing these pets for the Kiddies free of charge.

We owe a vote of thanks to Dick's Cycle Shop who have made it possible for us to have the bicycles to give away to the Kiddies. Dick's Cycle Shop also merits our patronage as they have been furnishing bicycles free of charge to help out and make the Kiddies program most succecssful.

Don't forget the next show—June 4, 10 a.m., High School Auditorium. There will be prizes worth while. We'll be seeing you!

BUTCHERS PLAN STATE MEET IN SANTA CRUZ

Arrangements for the convention of the Western Federation of Butchers of California at Santa Cruz next September were started at the regular meeting of District Council of Butchers Union 506 at the San Jose Labor Temple recently, with representatives from Santa Cruz Local 266 and San Mateo Local 516 in attendance also.

Exact date of the state convention has not been set but the three local unions will start a fund at once to handle costs of the meeting, according to Earl A. Moorhead, executive secretary of Local 506, which has jurisdiction in Watsonville, Monterey County, San Benito County, and Santa Clara County.

A short discussion of statewide financing programs for the International Convention of the Butchers Union in Los Angeles in 1952 was held.

Most of the business at the district council meeting was devoted to action to revise the constitution and by-laws of Local 506, Moorhead said. Many changes were adopted and printing of the new, up-to-date code was ordered.

Lengthy discussions on such subjects as self-service markets, recent organizing conferences and programs, unemployment, the last international convention, tannery conditions and the employment and general picture of the entire area filled the rest of the all-day session.

Wives of delegates to the council were guests at a luncheon for the entire group.

Those present included:

From Santa Cruz Local 266—Kaspar Bauer, secretary.

From San Mateo Local 516 — Edwin Michelsen, secretary.

From San Jose Branch, Local 506—Secretary Moorhead, Business Representatives Fred Feci and E. L. Courtright, President Arthur Cox, Recording Secretary Ray Volpe, Vice President Louis Visca, Ruth Burton of the Egg Workers division.

From Monterey Branch, Local 506—President Ed L. Capon and Recording Secretary Roland Robinson.

From Salinas Branch, Local 506—President Clark Bannert, Vice President E. T. Thornton, and Recording Secretary W. Gilbert.

From Hollister Branch, Local 506—President Adam Oliver and Recording Secretary C. E. Goodnow.

From Watsonville Branch, Local 506—President Stanley George and Recording Secretary David Montoya.

Rodeo Float Construction Gets Underway

With the acceptance of plans for mounting of the American Federation of Labor "handshake emblem" around a globe to represent the world, this theme of the Central Labor Council's float in the parade during the California Rodeo in Salinas, the committee in charge began construction of the float last weekend.

Committee Chairman Carl Lara said the Float Committee met early in the week, went over plans for the float in detail, and instructed that the building of the floral float be started at once.

Labor's share in the U. S. national income dropped below prewar levels in 1948, according to a United Nations study. The ratio of wages, salaries and other labor income stood at 62 per cent of total national income in 1948, a decline of 4 per cent since 1938.

CARPENTERS START BALLOT NEXT TUESDAY

Salinas Carpenters Union 925 will begin annual election of officers at the membership meeting next Tuesday night, June 7, at which time nominations will be opened for the election scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, according to George R. Harter, business agent of the union.

Urging a good turnout of members at the two election meetings, Harter said that the interest in the officer choice this year is higher than usual and that several good contests are expected.

* * *

More men were sent from Local 925 to the PG&E project at Moss Landing last week, bringing to about 150 the number of union carpenters on this job, Harter added.

* * *

Contractor Leonard English of Santa Cruz is expected to send in a call for carpenters to start work this week on the new Sanborn School.

* * *

Al Junkers, local contractor, is starting the job of remodeling building fronts on John Street to make way for straigntening of Highway 101 south.

* * *

Plans are being prepared for two new projects—a new Bardin School just east of Salinas, and a new Presbyterian Church in the Mission Park Tract.

Bids Due July 6 For Prison Job

Plans for the $10,000,000 medium security state prison at Soledad were completed last week and were ready for call for bids for construction of the project, the bids to be opened on July 6 at Sacramento, according to George R. Harter, business agent of Salinas Carpenters Union 925.

Harter said that word had reached him on Friday that the plans were now ready for contractors. If the contract is awarded in July, construction is expected to start very shortly thereafter. Salinas unions have jurisdiction over this project, he added.

Navy Mess Hall Crew Seek Gains

Discussions between officials of Culinary-Bartenders Union 483 of Monterey and officer members of the board of directors of the U. S. Naval School Commissioned Officers Mess (open) were under way last week in behalf of civilian employees at the mess hall, union Secretary George L. Rice reported.

Inasmuch as these workers are not under state or local government jurisdiction and have no coverage for old age benefits, unemployment or disability benefits, the union is asking the hall directors to arrange for adequate coverage for the security of these workers, Rice added.

Here Are Your Representatives

(Use home address when Legislature or Congress is in recess.)

U. S. Senator Sheridan Downey
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.
Home: 100 McAllister St.
San Francisco, Calif.

U. S. Senator Wm. F. Knowland
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.
Home: Tribune Tower
Oakland, Calif.

* * *

Congressman E. K. Bramblett
House Office Building
Washington, D. C.
Home: 549 Hillcrest Ave.
Pacific Grove, Calif.

* * *

State Senator Fred Weybret
The State Capitol
Sacramento, Calif.
Home: 22 Hawthorne St.
Salinas, Calif.

* * *

Assemblyman James W. Silliman
The State Capitol
Sacramento, Calif.
Home: 236 Hawthorne St.
Salinas, Calif.

Sal. Bartender Union Officers Serve 2 Years

Key officials of Bartenders Union 545 henceforth will serve for two years as their regular term of office, the union voted at a recent meeting, according to Secretary A. J. Clark.

The union's executive board will be elected to staggered terms, half of the board elected annually for two-year terms, while all other officers are elected at the same time, Clark added.

Amendments to the by-laws of Local 545 at the union meeting were adopted, one change including an increase of dues, it was announced.

Jay Benchley, bartender at Salinas Inn, was appointed to the post of investigating officer and executive board member, succeeding Jack Rehill, who has been forced to give up the office due to his employment.

Two new members were accepted by initiation, William J. Borla, bartender at Santa Lucia Inn, and Troy Blaylock, bartender at The Buckeroo, Clark said.

In Union Circles

Annual election of officers for Monterey Bartenders and Culinary Workers Union 483 will be started at this week's meeting, Wednesday night, 8:30, at 315 Alvarado St. Nominations will be accepted at both June meetings with election in July.

* * *

S. M. Thomas, business agent of Laborers Union 960 of Monterey, has been named a member of the negotiation committee for the Rock, Sand and Gravel Association agreement with the Northern California District Council of Laborers

* * *

Monterey unions co-operated last weekend with the Monterey Peninsula Traffic Survey, helping count cars at major intersections to help the area solve traffic problems. The survey was dubbed "Operation Traffic Count."

* * *

Salinas area unions are making plans to serve the crowds and do the extra jobs which come with the big California Rodeo there in mid-June.

Thousands of people will visit Salinas and many workers will find overtime and extra work.

* * *

J. B. McGinley, business agent of Salinas Laborers Union 272, says he keeps himself younger by traveling so much throughout the large jurisdiction of that union. He travels from the extreme southern part of the county, King City and vicinity, up to near Watsonville—and makes the rounds very often.

AFL Fishermen Picket Boats In Price Tiff

Eight Monterey purse seiners whose owners had been selling sardines at considerably less than the price agreed upon by the union were picketed by the AFL Fisherman's Union of Monterey last week.

Th boats reportedly were delivering fish at $30 a ton, while boat owners and the union are asking $50. Pickets were stationed on the city wharves as result of the agreement violation.

Some of New Painter Pact Is Approved

Accord was reached last week by representatives of painting contractors and by officials of Painters 1104 of Salinas on some portions of a new contract for the craft, according to Secretary Carl Lara of Local 1104.

However, Lara added, the key issues of an insurance and benefit plan for painters and in regard to wages have yet to be negotiated, with the current agreement expiring on June 1. No extension on the current agreement had been approved at time of Lara's announcement.

Amendments to the present contract which have been approved by both sides tend to clarify the agreement, Lara said.

One such point calls for new provisions for maintenance painters, whereby contractors will abide by the agreement in all points save wages and hours, the vacations and sick leave provisions for maintenance men offsetting any amount in added wages which construction industry painters may receive.

Another point approved calls for a clarification of apprentice assignments. Henceforth contractors must have been in business a year and must have employed at least three painters for that long, in order to qualify for an apprentice. Lara said that this was to insure that the contractor would remain in business and be able to provide adequate training for the apprentice.

The question of travel time for painters has been clarified also, with travel time to be allowed for any distance over seven miles from the Salinas City Hall. Formerly the contract called for travel time for a distance over seven miles from a contractor's shop. The new terminology is deemed fairer to all, Lara explained.

* * *

In local employment matters Lara reports:

Negotiations are under way with the Ferguson Tile Co. (ceramic and linoleum tile) for a contract covering tile-layers.

J. T. Moore Co. of San Francisco has started repainting the Permanente Metals Corp. plant at Moss Landing and will engage men through the Salinas union office.

J. Alsop, Monterey contractor, is completing repainting of the Pep Creamery in Salinas, using local men.

IATSE Local Certified As Bargaining Agent

New York. — The Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board certified Local No. B-100 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes as collective bargaining agent for cashiers, doormen, ushers, cleaners, porters and matrons in Philadelphia motion picture theaters.

Action follows a recent election in which the workers chose the local by a more than 2-to-1 vote over District 50 of the United Mine Workers of America.

Local B-100 plans to begin negotiations for new contracts in the near future and will demand pay increases retroactive to last August 3, the date its old contracts expired. Talks which extended into last winter were broken off when the union's jurisdiction was challenged.

New York State Reports Improved Strike Record

Albany, N. Y. — Work stoppages in New York State resulted in a loss of less working time during the first quarter of 1949 than during the corresponding period of 1948, Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi announced.

A total of 358,230 man-days, approximately one-tenth of one per cent of estimated available working time, was lost during the quarter, in which 136 stoppages began. In all, 24,320 workers were involved.

Approximately 259,010 man-days, or two-tenths of one per cent of available working time, were lost in strikes during March. Two stoppages in New York City, involving 3,700 employees of six major baking companies and 7,000 railway express workers, accounted for 75 per cent of the time lost.

Wreckers Get Raise

Chicago.—A 10-cents-an-hour increase in wages for approximately 250 members of Local 225, Wreckers and General Laborers Union (AFL) becomes effective as of June 1, International Representative Louis Sidney said. The top scale was increased from $1.75 to $1.85.

Our Course Clear In 1950: Clean Up Rest of Congress

Culinary 467 Lines Up Help For Rodeo Week

Bertha A. Boles, secretary of Culinary Alliance 467 of Salinas, announced last week that competent and experienced waitresses and other workers in this craft are being registered now for extra jobs during the California Rodeo "Big Week" in Salinas, June 13-19.

Those interested in such jobs should contact Mrs. Boles at her offices in the Salinas Labor Temple, she said.

Local 467 had an unusually big attendance at last week's meeting to hear reports on the new $1000 insurance plan, now in effect for the membership, Mrs. Boles added. Seven new members were initiated at this meeting.

Plumbers' List Ample for PG&E

The growing list of unemployed plumbers who want work at the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. steam plant construction job, being done at Moss Landing by Stone & Webster Corp. now, is more than ample to supply calls for men in the near future, according to union Business Agent Albert Everly of Salinas Plumbers Union 503.

Some 30 plumbers have been engaged for the job already, Everly said, and more will be called soon, but no more men should come to Salinas to get on the list for the project. Most members of Local 503 are employed but there are many from outside unions waiting, hoping to get jobs at the Moss Landing job, Everly added.

Apprentice Carpenters Graduated

Several new journeymen and apprentices-soon - to - become journeymen in the carpentry trade received recognition and honor at the Salinas Evening School exercises last Thursday. They were presented certificates showing their successful completion of related training taken at the Salinas Evening Junior College.

Graduation exercises at the evening school honor vocational trainees who complete their courses, adults who fulfill all requirements for either high-school or junior college diplomas, and new citizens who during the current school year have completed their work in the school and have passed their superior court examinations. A reception in honor of all graduates was held immediately after the program.

Political Body For Monterey Formed by CLC

Monterey Peninsula Central Labor Council has created a new Political Committee which in turn has held its first meeting and started work on a program of action during the rest of this year.

Joe Perry of the Monterey Fish Cannery Workers Union was named chairman of the new committee with George L. Rice, secretary of Culinary-Bartenders Union 482, as committee secretary.

Other members of the committee and their unions include:

Ed Karl, Carpenters 1323; Gerald Miller, Retail Clerks 839; Kenneth Smiley, Teamsters 890; Emmett Woods, Motor Coach Employees; E. E. Winters, labor council president and member of the typographical union, and Wayne Edwards, labor council secretary and member of the teachers union.

The committee, at its first meeting, agreed to contact other labor councils and various unions of the 11th Congressional District and try to arrange for a joint meeting of labor political committees to discuss district problems.

Monterey city council is to be contacted in regard to local matters in which organized labor has a stake, it was reported.

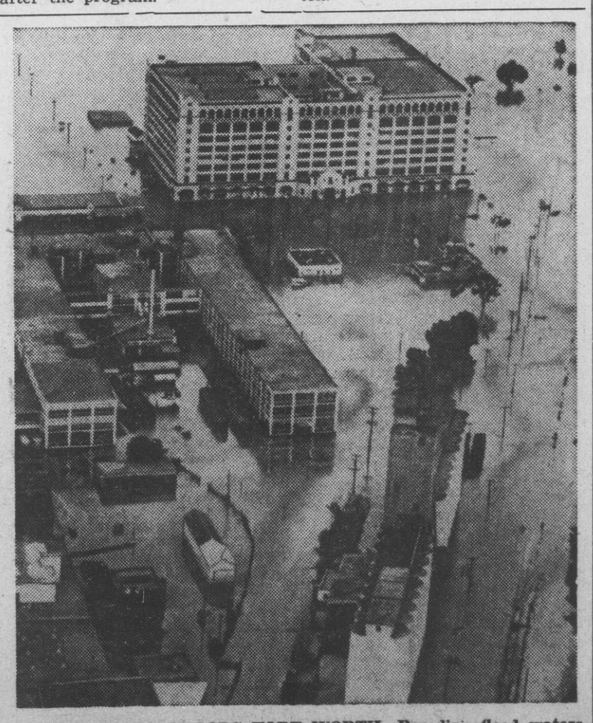
Candidates who may be interested in public office will be interviewed by the committee and effort will be made to correlate the labor political program of the district with that of the Democratic party, spokesmen said.

Benefit Fund Of Local 483 To Get Boost

A campaign was started last week by Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union 483 of Monterey to raise money for the union's welfare and sick benefit fund, Secretary George L. Rice reported.

Members of the union's executive board comprise a special committee directing a contest which has a grand gift of a 1949 model automobile. The contest will close July 1, Rice said, and the car will be presented to the winner by Mayor L. K. Smith of Monterey.

Officials of the union directing the contest include President James Q. Maney, Vice President Charles M. Osterloch, Secretary George L. Rice, Lucille McNally, Crystal Ross, Harry Wasson, Peter Puhl, Forrest J. Ward, Thomas Newell Harvey Rose and Robert Harrington.



CLOUDBURST FLOODS FORT WORTH—Receding flood waters, flowing over rooftops in wide sections of Fort Worth, Tex., left behind six dead and over 13,000 homeless. Above is an aerial view of the Montgomery Ward building following the 12-inch cloudburst that broke four levees.

AFL Chiefs Bitter On Repeal Blocking

(AFL Release)

Cleveland.—The American Federation of Labor pledged itself to concentrate all its political power, through Labor's League for Political Education, on the election of a large majority of liberals to Congress in 1950, regardless of party affiliations.

Plainly disappointed by the failure of the 81st Congress thus far to enact repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and to adopt other progressive measures in labor's platform, the League's Administrative Committee blamed the sorry record on the coalition of reactionary Democrats and Republicans. The committee's statement warning that this coalition may cause a continuing stalemate unless its members are defeated for reelection follows:

CLEAR-CUT TASK

"The first test votes in the House of Representatives on the issue of Taft-Hartley repeal have provided organized labor with a clear-cut blueprint of the task we must undertake in the 1950 election campaign.

"Apparently, the die-hard reactionaries of both parties in Congress who managed to survive in the 1948 elections, still refuse to recognize the overwhelming mandate of the American people as expressed by their vote.

"Thus, we are faced with the fact that our efforts in the 1948 campaign accomplished only a partial victory and that we must make certain to complete the job in 1950 if we hope to gain the objective of good, progressive government in America.

EVEN IF T-H REPEALED

"Even if Congress repeals the Taft-Hartley Act before adjournment of the present session, and enacts a new labor-management relations law satisfactory to labor, the workers of this country can not feel safe and secure while reactionary forces are able to muster such strength in Congress as was manifested in the roll-call vote on the Wood bill in the House of Representatives a few weeks ago.

"Even a cursory analysis of the situation in Congress today reveals the fact that instead of a 2-party system we have in operation a tug-of-war between reactionary forces from both parties on one side and liberals from both parties on the other. On many vital issues the pulling and hauling between these contending forces has resulted in a stalemate. No action at all has been taken by Congress after four months of this session on legislation deeply affecting the welfare of the American people.

AS BAD AS THE 80TH

"It becomes clear, therefore, that a sizable majority of the Democratic party in the 81st Congress offers labor scarcely any greater comfort than the heavy majority the Republicans had in the 80th Congress. What organized labor and the country as a whole needs is a large majority of liberals in Congress, regardless of what their party affiliations may be.

"To this end Labor's League for Political Education will dedicate its efforts in the 1950 campaign. From the reports submitted to the Administrative Committee at today's meeting, it is clearly evident that we will be in a better position to carry on our work organizationally and financially in 1950 than we were in 1948. We will soon be in a position to canvass voters on a precinct basis in every Congressional district in the nation and our efforts are assured financial support from the great bulk of the 8,000,000 members of the American Federation of Labor.

"Meanwhile, the league is going ahead with valuable and effective educational and informational work through radio programs and through the publication of a new weekly newspaper, the League Reporter."

AFL Teamsters' Local Gains $10 Pay Increase

Newark, N. J.—Six New Jersey breweries and an AFL teamsters local signed a new contract providing for outside arbitration when workers complain of speedups.

The pact maintains the present 40-hour week and provides wage boosts of $10 per week, retroactive to April 1.

Boost in Idle Pay Is Stalled

(State Fed. Release)

The Assembly Finance and Insurance Committee on May 23 kept in committee a major State Federation of Labor bill, AB-175, to increase maximum unemployment insurance benefits, but acted favorably on several other important measures.

On the major bill, AB-175, to increase maximum benefits from $25 to $40 a week, it was impossible to get a majority of the committee to support the bill as presented. The bill was then amended to provide for an increase in the maximum weekly benefits to $35 a week and to insert the provisions of AB-826, which provide for decreased employer contributions under merit rating. The amendments together would result in an increase of about $35 million annually in benefits paid out and in a decrease in employer contributions of about $25 million annually.

The committee vote to report out favorably the bill as amended was:

Good votes: Beck, Brady, Doyle, Dunn, Maloney, Meyers.

Bad votes: Geddes, Grunsky, Stanley, Lipscomb, Levering.

Absent: Dolwig, Morris.

Since no majority of the committee was obtained, it was then moved to reprint the bill, with the amendments, with the following vote:

Good votes: Geddes, Beck, Doyle, Dunn, Maloney, Meyers.

Bad votes: Brady, Grunsky, Levering, Lipscomb, Stanley.

Absent: Dolwig, Morris.

As no majority was obtained, the bill still remains in committee.

Other committee action on Federation bills was as follows:

AB-327, to make a person on strike, who is now disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits, eligible for disability benefits. Reported out, do pass.

Good votes: Beck, Doyle, Dunn, Geddes, Maloney, Meyers, Stanley.

Bad votes: Levering, Lipscomb.

Absent: Brady, Dolwig, Morris, Grunsky.

AB-744, to bring public housing administration agencies under the Unemployment Insurance Act. Do pass, voice vote.

AB-896, to make more specific the procedure of the California Employment Stabilization Commission when making or changing rules or regulations. Do pass, voice vote.

AB-178, as amended, to reduce the disqualification for seasonal workers under unemployment insurance. Remained in committee.

Good votes: Geddes, Doyle, Dunn, Maloney, Meyers, Stanley.

Bad Votes: Grunsky, Levering, Lipscomb.

Absent: Dolwig, Brady, Morris, Beck.

AB-169, as amended, to increase from $2,500 to $3,750 the maximum penalty award under workmen's compensation payable by an employer engaging in serious and wilful misconduct resulting in an injury. Do pass, voice vote.

AB-172, to provide under workmen's compensation for the repair and replacement of eyeglasses and medical braces damaged during work. Do pass, voice vote.

Tuna Packers Open Pay Cut Drive

San Diego.—The nation's major tuna packers have renewed their attempts to slash the earnings of AFL fishermen employed on the long-range tuna clippers.

Without consulting the boat owners or the crews, the canneries have suddenly announced they will no longer guarantee the $340 a ton in effect since late 1947 for yellowfin tuna, the most abundant variety.

Some canneries have dropped their guarantees as low as $280 a ton. They have said, "Take it or leave it," and the boat owners and crews are refusing to sail, as they did under similar circumstances last winter. At that time the canneries, faced with disappearance of their supply, finally yielded after a three-month partial tieup of the tuna fleet, and resumed paying the $340 figure.

Union leaders assailed the unilateral nature of the cannery action. "If they have marketing problems, and can prove to us in bargaining across the table that the dockside price of tuna must come down for the good of the industry, we'd be willing to consider their viewpoints," Secretary Lester Balinger of the Cannery Workers and Fishermen's Union declared.

"But when they just arbitrarily announce they won't pay us the old price any more, a tieup is the only alternative."

Boat owners say they can't operate profitably at less than $340 a ton. Cannery operators contend the price of tuna must be cut because their product isn't moving rapidly enough from grocery shelves. In the middle are the AFL crews, who are paid shares of the fish value. The industry is in renewed turmoil, with another indefinite tieup in prospect.

The apple tree, supposed to be a native of southwest Asia, has spread to all temperate climes.

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WHO RUNS CALIFORNIA TODAY?

Union people and their families in California and a lot of other people, who believe that labor is entitled to a fair deal and should be getting just that from both our state and our national governments, should take a good look at the kind of lawmakers we have been electing during recent years and especially at the last election. In our state we elected a hopelessly reactionary Republican for governor, who claimed he was liberal and progressive, and an even more reactionary Republican Legislature. In national politics our state cast its electoral vote for President Truman, and at the same time elected 13 Republicans and only 10 Democrats, to the House of Representatives to oppose the platform pledges on which Truman was elected. To date twelve of those thirteen Republicans have voted against repealing the Taft-Hartley law, while our ten democrats and one Republican voted for its repeal. Our governor, who was elected on promises that he would give labor a fair deal, that he favored old-age pensions, and really was for health insurance, has double-crossed both the workers and the pensioners, all of which strongly suggests that his talk for health insurance is likewise that much hokum, as he knows full well that his Republican lawmakers can be relied upon not to pass any health insurance laws. Most of these anti-labor Republicans and our twelve anti-labor Republican Congressmen should not be retained in 1950.

DISCARD THOSE WHO BREAK FAITH

It is high time that voters generally began to take their political efforts more seriously than so many of our people have been doing in the past. Unless those who are elected with our votes keep faith with us and make an honest effort to fulfill their pledges before election such faithless public servants should definitely be discarded at the next election.

This idea that it is smart politics to make promises to voters that never were intended to be kept should be so completely discredited by the voters themselves by never re-electing such double crossers that politicians who are inclined to treat the voters as suckers, after they are elected to office, will begin to realize they will simply seal their doom by such faithlessness.

Although the 81st Congress seems to have not a few of these faithless members in it there nevertheless is also evidence of a growing trend among our elected lawmakers that they had better take their pre-election promises seriously, or find themselves in grave danger of being eliminated at the next election.

No party, that deliberately repudiates its platform pledges, on which its candidates were elected and placed in control of the management of our country, should ever be returned to power. Enforcing this rule would teach politicians to keep faith.

NO PARTY OWNS LABOR VOTE

As long as the politicians of big business could rest assured that labor was splitting its political strength about fifty-fifty between the two leading political parties they did not need to make much of any concessions to labor. Today, however, it is not quite so easy to know what labor will do on election day.

No politicial party either owns or controls the labor vote in the United States. Yet it was definietly the labor vote that decided the last five presidential elections. That is something, but it is not everything. Important as the presidency is that is far from everything. Congress is even more important, for that is the department of our government that makes the laws. The President is helpless unless he has a Congress to back him up. No matter how hard he tries he can do little or nothing without the cooperation of Congress. That is the lesson that labor is learning and already there are signs that labor may do the unexpected in the next election, if the leaders of the Democratic party think they can cram most anything down labor' sthroat.

The other day Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. was elected to Congress, after the Democratic bosses had ruled him off the Democratic ticket. You can be certain that it was labor, who provided most of the votes.

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE ADVANCED

To those who feel disposed to chide labor for its failure to use its political power and its organized strength more effectually than it is doing today just think back a hundred years.

There were no legalized labor unions then. Chattel slavery was still a recognized and legalized institution. It was a rare exception to find a workingman, who could see any good coming out of labor getting organized. Where thousands of workers are today studying and thinking about labor questions it would have been difficult to find one who would lend a serious ear to such ideas. It was unlawful conspiracy to organize working people and that baffled nearly everybody. Have we progressed? We surely must have.



Family Savings Cleaned Out When Serious Illness Strikes

Washington.—The way to improve America's health record is through a national health insurance program, a House subcommittee was told May 24 by leaders in the fields of medicine, business and social work.

Taking testimony were members of a ten-man subcommittee of the House Interstate Commerce Committee, headed by Rep. Percy Priest (D., Tenn.). Meanwhile, health legislation hearings were in full swing on the Senate side of the Capitol, with supporters of a charity medicine scheme presenting their views.

DOCTOR BACKS INSURANCE

Dr. Channing Frothingham, who is chairman of the Committee For the Nation's Health, and twice president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, said his 40 years in active medical practice convince him of the need for the insurance program. He said **preventive medical procedures and early diagnosis** without extra expense to the individual, as provided in the insurance bills, **will bring a higher quality of medical care than under the voluntary health programs now in operation.**

Frothingham said the main reasons why many doctors do not back the proposed health insurance program set out in Administration Bills HR-4312 and HR-4313 are that they do not get a fair picture of the program from the Journal of the American Medical Association, and that **they have been taken in by false propaganda against the proposal.**

BLASTS CHARITY MEDICINE

Speaking as a successful businessman, Albert D. Lasker told the congressmen the health insurance bills "call for buying medical care on the installment plan, with an insurance pool to which the beneficiaries would contribute and from which all would draw when the need arose."

Contrasting insurance for all to a care-to-the-indigent-only plan, he said: "No swarms of investigators will have to check up on whether our fellow Americans are really indigent enough to deserve a government handout. . . . The insurance principle will use the state to serve the people rather than to master and regiment and police them."

POSTPONE TREATMENT

Executive Secretary Joseph Anderson of the American Association of Social Workers said members of his profession have had more experience with the means test than any other group in this country. **Many families would put off receiving medical care when a disease should be controlled, in order to avoid charity medicine,** he said.

Anderson gave examples of the way serious illness and surgery put a middle-income family on the rocks financially, without their being able to qualify as charity cases even if they wanted to.

The Senate subcommittee heard statements by Senators Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio) and Lister Hill (D., Ala.), who favor different alternatives to the Administration health insurance bill. Both, however, rest on the charity medicine principle, in place of universal insurance. Since three members of the Senate Labor Committee which is considering the health bills support the Taft measure, and four back Hill's proposal, these groups between them have a majority of the 13 committee members.

Construction Employment Up to Almost 2 Million

Washington.—Contract construction employment in mid-April totaled 1,965,000, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. This is an increase of 127,000 workers over the revised March estimate, and is 32,000 above the number employed in April, 1948.

The estimated value of all new construction put in place also increased from March to April, by 10 per cent to $1,368,000,000. Compared witih April, 1948, expenditures this April are slightly less, the first time since February, 1945, that expenditures for the current month are lower than the same month in the previous year.

Residential building and privately financed public utility construction rose from March to April, respectively, by 10 per cent to $440,000,000 and 7 per cent to $265,000,000, but private nonresidential building declined, for the seventh month, to $252,000,000.

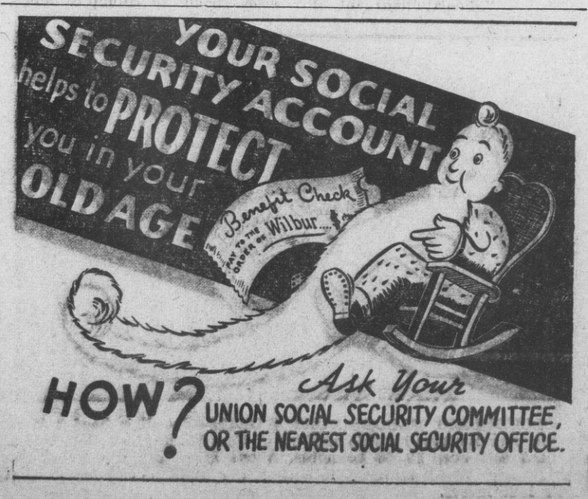
T-H Act Assailed at Virginia Fed. Conclave

Richmond, Va.—The Taft-Hartley Act is "fundamentally dishonest" legislation, a West Virginia labor leader told delegates to the Virginia Federation of Labor's 53d annual convention here.

The act "was passed to weaken and eventually destroy the unions," Eugene Carter, president of the West Virginia Federation of Labor, told the meeting.

Carter pointed the way to what probably will be the principal labor issue of the 3-day convention, attended by approximately 475 representatives of AFL unions throughout Virginia.

Carter asserted that supporters of the labor act "don't like the idea of strong unions that get out the vote for their friends."



AUTO HINTS

Engine Knock.—A faintly audible knock when an automobile engine is pulling on a hill, commonly referred to as a "spark knock," may be the result of using ordinary gasoline instead of premium fuel.

* * *

Force of Impact.—If two cars traveling at the moderate speed of 40 miles per hour meet in head-on collision, the force of impact is equivalent to a speed of 80 miles per hour, points out the California State Automobile Association, in urging drivers to keep this fact in mind when passing other cars on crowded highways.

* * *

Check Cool Tires.—If automobile tire pressure is lowered to factory recommendations when the tires are hot from fast driving, there is danger of under-inflation after the tires have cooled. Because air expands when hot and contracts when cold, tire pressure should always be checked when tires are cool. Low pressure type tires may show a pressure increase of from six to ten pounds after a fast drive on a hot day.

* * *

Low Beam Advised.—When driving at night in heavy traffic, operation of your car's headlights entirely on the low beam is advised. The Vehicle Code requires shifting to the low beam when within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle. Use of the low beam when in heavy night traffic avoids frequent shifting from high to low.

* * *

Slow Starting.—When an automobile engine does not start promptly, the trouble may be caused by a partially discharged battery. Slow starting also causes crankcase dilution and cylinder wear due to raw gasoline being pumped into the cylinders where it washes the lubricant from the cylinder walls into the crankcase.

* * *

Car Lubrication.—Improper lubrication of bearings and bearing surfaces is responsible for many automobile breakdowns. Car owners should select one reliable lubricating service and have all lubricating done by the same station, if possible, so that responsibility for proper lubrication will be fixed.

15c Wage Boost Ends Carpenters' Strike

Philadelphia. — A strike of 7000 carpenters ended in less than one week here as the Metropolitan Dist. Council of Carpenters (AFL) okayed a new contract providing a 15c hourly wage boost.

The walkout came when the area contractors refused to consider an increase in renewal of the old contract. Former rate was $2.25 an hour. The main body of strikers were in industrial and commercial building, which came to a complete halt during the walkout. Still to be settled are a number of contracts in the millwork end of the industry, as well as in private homebuilding.

Job Rush to Alaska Causes Unemployment

Washington, D.C.—There's a new rush to Alaska going on—not a gold rush, but a job rush, and the tragic thing about it is that there are not enough jobs in the territory to go around.

Because of the development of serious unemployment in Alaska, President John W. Cox of Alaska Federation of Labor has issued a warning to workers who may be planning to go there to look for jobs. He said:

"Due to the influx of labor into Alaska, unemployment has now reached a critical stage. Nothing in sight to overcome it. Please advise all concerned."

GRIN or GROAN

Always keep in mind that bad officials are often elected by the people who didn't vote.

* * *

Joe Bean is one married man who always has the last word.—It is "Yes, dear."

* * *

She wears slacks, but in a manner to recall an old truie: "The end justifies the jeans."

* * *

I like the silent pictures best,
Their return I'd greet with a shout.
Ah, to see a woman open her mouth,
And never a sound come out.

* * *

A very exclusive nudist colony voted NO on the application of a candidate because she was tatooed.

* * *

"It's not just the work I enjoy," said the taxi driver, "it's the people I run into."

* * *

Small Boy: "Lady, give us a quarter and me little brother will imitate a hen."

Lady: "What will he do, cackle?"

Small Boy: "Naw, nuttin' as corny as dat. He'll eat a worm."

* * *

Little Jerry came down the stairs bellowing lustily. "What's the matter now?" said his mother.

"Papa was hanging pictures and hit his thumb with a hammer," said Jerry.

"That's not so serious," soothed his mother. "A big man like you shouldn't cry at a trifle like that. Why didn't you just laugh?"

"I did," sobbed Jerry.

* * *

"A kiss is the shortest distance between two pouts," says Izie.

* * *

An adult is a person who has stopped growing at both ends and started in the middle.

* * *

It was one of those nerve racking days every parent has experienced at some time or other. Betty had got a bean stuck in her nose; some unknown substance had to be removed from an ear; she had painted the family daschund with mom's lipstick; snapped a mouse trap on the tail of a neighbor's cat, and had put her teddy bear in the toilet and then flushed it.

Mother had cajoled, pleaded, admonished and scolded in vain. When Betty finally suggested that she'd be good for a nickel, mother was amazed, then indignant: What manner of child was this she had nurtured which proposed bribery as the cost of good behavior. She was firm in her refusal and admonished the erring offspring thusly:

"For shame! Asking a bribe for being good. That trait comes neither from your mother nor your daddy. You must have inherited it from your uncle. And now young lady you listen to me. There will be no nickel for being good. I want you to be just like your daddy. He is good for nothing."

* * *

A lisp they say, is to call a spade a thpade. And that reminds me of the lisping shoe clerk who told his attractive customer:

"Thit down, pleeth, while I look up your thighs."

* * *

Beware of the sidewalk whisperer. If it were the truth he whispered, he need not be whispering it.

* * *

The hotel maid treated her boy friend like dirt. She hid him under the bed.

* * *

After the gentleman says, "I do," In a tone that barely is heard. Both are aware from that time on, That her's is the final word.

Labor Department Registers More Than 200,000 Apprentices

Niagara Falls, N.Y.—A total of 238,357 apprentices are now registered with the Labor Department's Bureau of Apprenticeship or with state apprenticeship agencies, and 6,630 joint management-labor apprenticeship committees are established, Ansel R. Cleary, assistant director, Bureau of Apprenticeship, reported here at an apprentice graduation ceremony.

The ceremony was sponsored by six joint management-labor apprenticeship committees in charge of citywide programs in which apprentices are being trained for craftsmanship in the construction trades.

Citing the above statistics on apprentices and joint committees, Mr. Cleary said that 29,970 of the total number of apprentices throughout the country are in training in New York State.

Emphasizing the importance of maintaining the skilled labor force through apprentice training, Mr. Cleary pointed to the experience of employers during the war, and their dire need for craftsmen in "the battle for production." Referring to the Selective Service System, he declared that "there is a need for more realistic division of manpower between the civilian production forces and the military forces."

Of 48.4 million "spending units" in the U. S. in 1947, 41,624,000 received less than $5000 a year.

Enact Thomas-Lesinski Bill—AFL Stand; 4 Changes Allowed

Cleveland.—Concluding its regular quarterly meeting here, the AFL Executive Council charged that reactionary groups in America are using every trick and maneuver to prevent repeal of the Taft-Hartley law in order "to suppress progress and to maintain special privilege in power."

In a formal statement, the Council called for enactment of the Thomas-Lesinski Bill in place of the Taft-Hartley Act and reaffirmed its willingness to accept certain changes in that measure to provide additional safeguards to further protect the public interests in labor-management relations.

"NO INJUNCTION"

Maintaining its unequivocal position in opposition to the use of injunctions in labor disputes, the Council agreed to accept the following changes in the Lesinski Bill which have been proposed by government leaders:

1. A provision requiring employer as well as union leaders to sign non-Communist affidavits.

2. A requirement for the filing of financial reports by unions.

3. A guarantee of free speech for employers short of intimidation and coercion.

4. A provision giving the President power to seize for 30 days any struck plant or industry involved in a dispute which threatens to bring about a national emergency.

"With these amendments," the Council declared, "any sincere objections to the Thomas-Lesinski Bill must be removed. The Executive Council hopes and anticipates that Congress will adopt the measure in the suggested form. It represents the limit to which organized labor can go."

TAFT, MARKED MAN

In other action at the Council meeting, AFL President William Green told reporters at a press conference that the AFL hopes to obtain support of all liberal groups, including the Americans for Democratic Action, in its great fight next year to defeat Senator Robert A. Taft who will run for reelection in Ohio.

Mr. Green also said he had dispatched a telegram to Secretary of State Dean Acheson, on behalf of the Council, urging United States aid for a group of anti-Soviet Russian refugees now living in Shanghai where they fled to escape Soviet agents.

Prior to adjournment, the Council decided to hold its next regular meeting at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Canada, on August 15.

Jobless in Europe Fewer Than Prewar

Paris. — Despite population increases, unemployment in western Europe is generally lower than before World War II, the Economic Cooperation Administration reported here.

The statement also said that a continuation of the present trend would bring the level of food consumption to within three per cent of the prewar figure.

Four notable exceptions were seen in the general decrease of unemployment: West Germany, Italy, Greece and Belgium.

The ECA added, however, that West Germany has experienced a large population increase in refugees from the east and suffered extensive wartime damage to its industrial plant. Greece is still plagued by the dislocation of a civil war. Italy's problem has been complicated because the war shut off the normal flow of emigration.

Belgium is adjusting production to lower levels of demand in certain consumer lines, the ECA reported, but unemployment in Belgium has declined 70,000 since January.

The Right to Poison Bread

The right of American baking companies freely to poison you—with no consequences to them—is being fought out in a series of extensive and little publicized hearings before the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D. C. And it's all being done for the sake of good, clean profits and good old free enterprise.

That sounds like a shocking accusation to make, but here's the story—another of the stories on which the press rings down the paper curtain.

Not long ago newspaper readers were shocked by published reports of a discovery by scientists that chemically treated flour, used to make bread, gave fits to dogs who ate it. It was also indicated that such flour could be harmful to human beings.

The chemical used was agene, added to flour to age it, thus enabling manufacturers to increase profits by speeding up production on bread.

As a result of the discovery, the Food and Drug Administration ordered that agene be discontinued in the processing of flour by Aug. 1. Now manufacturers are looking around for a chemical substitute for agene. And if it turns out that the substitute is also poisonous—they want an out.

As the law stands, the FDA has the right to convict and punish a firm if it proves that the product harms people. (Generally the punishments are on the laughable side—a fine of a few thousand dollars or the confiscation of a shipment of the poisonous product.)

But the manufacturers aren't satisfied with this. They're arguing and lobbying smoothly and powerfully behind the scenes for a new law regulating FDA's power. They want FDA to be required to prove that, in order to obtain a conviction, a manufacturer is also guilty of "willful intent"—something that is just about impossible to prove in court.

And there's another thing that has the big bread trust up in arms. One of the purposes of the FDA hearings is to set up standards for bread—to work out just what can go into bread and what can't. And, horrors! the FDA wants the ingredients to be listed on the wrapper.

Undermining free enterprise, say the millers, to be required to print on the wrappers what is put into bread.

One of the interesting developments at the hearings has been the appearance of representatives from big chemical companies such as Atlas Powder and Union Carbon & Carbide, who testified in support of the baking interests.

These firms have urged the FDA to let bakers use artificial chemicals, which have no food value, in the manufacture of bread—without listing such chemicals on bread wrappers. Naturally the chemical firms are interested because it's big business for them when the millers turn away from using natural food products in the manufacture of bread and use chemicals.

You might drop a note to your congressman and ask him how he stands on your right to be poisoned—for good old free enterprise.



NON-UNION PAINT ON PRESIDENT'S HOME—Non-union painter John Moler calmly paints the screens on the summer White House in Independence, Mo., unconcerned over the protest sent to Pres. Truman by Dist. Council 3, Bro. of Painters (AFL). The President has refused to comment on the union's complaint about his use of non-union labor.

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We wish to report that the Van and Storage agreement has finally been consummated. Drivers working for the following firms were granted a 10c per hour increase: Maris Transfer, Cota Transfer, Rays Transfer, Felix Marsh, Monterey Bay Transfer, Minicks Transfer, California Van and Storage, James Cahoon and Wermuth Transfer. Very little other changes can be reported. The agreement is effective as of April 1, 1949, to run for one year.

* * *

PRODUCE DRIVERS: Another meeting is scheduled with the Grower-Shippers for June 2 at which time we hope to have a favorable report to make to the members in this division.

* * *

ICE INDUSTRY: We wish to report that another meeting is scheduled with the Salinas ice industry for Tuesday, May 31; and we hope to have a favorable report for this division following that meeting.

* * *

CANNING, DEHYDRATION, FRESH VEGETABLES, FREEZING: No new developments at this time. A strike vote was taken throughout California involving the master agreement and it is possible that a strike may result some time during the year involving canneries who have a contract with the C. P. and G. Your Union has independent agreements not directly involved; however, we have also settled with our independent employers on the same basis as has been settled in other parts of California in the master agreement. We have no alternative but to wait and see what develops. You will be kept informed.

* * *

MONTEREY LUMBER DIVISION: A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 with your employers involving the Monterey lumber group. Watch this column for further developments regarding this division.

* * *

BLOOD BANK: It is hopeful that a storage bank for blood will be given to Salinas through the American Red Cross, so that this Union may start the ball rolling for a good substantial blood bank for this community.

* * *

SICK COMMITTEE: We ask all members to please report to the office of the Union either in Monterey or Salinas if you know of any member who is sick so that the Sick Committee may visit them.

* * *

We again emphasize to all of our members the importance of buying Union products, patronizing Union services, and recognizing the Shop Card of this Union.

If you buy a non-Union product, or one handled or sold by a non-Union firm, you break the chain of Unionism through which those who work for their living are alone able to exert their combined economic influence. In so doing you also undermine your own wages and living conditions; you jeopardize the welfare of your family and loved ones. Every dime spent with a non-Union firm, or for non-Union products encourages those who pay less than Union wages to continue to do so, and discourages Union employers, who see Union money going to their unfair competitors.

* * *

WATCH FOR THE UNION SHOP CARD. PATRONIZE THOSE THAT DISPLAY THE UNION EMBLEM.

* * *

The following firms merit your patronage: Firestone Stores at Monterey and San Luis Sts.; Les Thompson's Tire Service, Front and Alisal Sts.; Deane Tire Service, E. Gabilan and Monterey; Lamarr Brothers, E. Market and Monterey; Don Hultz Tire Shop, Pajaro and Alisal; Harry Rhoades Tire Service, John and Front; Richfield Station next to the Department of Employment on Monterey St., and Sears at Valley Center. ALL OTHER FIRMS ARE NON-UNION AND DO NOT MERIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

We also ask that you patronize only the following cab companies: In Salinas, Black and White Cabs, Salinas 5565; Yellow Cab and Checker Cab, Salinas 7337; Packard Cab, Salinas 8001. In Monterey, Rusty's Cab Service and Monterey Taxi Service. ALL OTHER CABS ARE NON-UNION AS FAR AS THE TEAMSTERS ARE CONCERNED.

* * *

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHANNEL YOUR MONEY TO PLACES THAT ARE UNION AND EMPLOY MEMBERS OF YOUR UNION.

* * *

MEETING DATES IN JUNE: The regular meeting of your Union will be held at the Moose Hall, 121-A Monterey Street, Salinas, on Tuesday, June 14.

In Monterey, the regular meeting will be held at the Bartenders Hall, 315 Alvarado Street, on Thursday, June 9.

Remember that a complete check is kept on attendance, and members who fail to attend one meeting quarterly shall be subject to a $2.50 fine. Be sure to attend one meeting out of three at least. **June is the last month for the second quarter.** All special meetings called, members will be notified in advance.

* * *

NEWS BITS: The annual trucking rodeo took place at the Cow Palace in San Francisco on Sunday, May 22; and Brother Harry C. Taylor of Local 890, employed by Clark Brothers, who won last year's main event, came in 5th. The California Trucking Rodeo is held annually and the winners compete nationally at some central point in the United States. Brother Waltrip of Local 287 will compete nationally, since he came out on top in San Francisco.

We are indeed proud of these fellows who drive over-the-road equipment. We are proud also of our members who, in past contests, have received national recognition, such as the National Safety contest for over-the-road driving. You recall, Brother Peter Juster received national recogntion in Chicago in a national safety contest.

* * *

Be sure to keep your dues paid on or before the first of each month, and keep in good standing at all times, so that you will be eligible for any benefits.

Have you received your insurance policy? Do you receive the weekly Labor News? Have you changed your address recently? If your answer is "no" to some of these questions, be sure to check with the office of your Union.

* * *

BUY UNION-MADE MERCHANDISE — PATRONIZE UNION FIRMS — WATCH FOR THE UNION SHOP CARD.

* * *

LAST MINUTE NEWS: It was reported that Mary Bernardasci lost her husband last night. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mary and members of her family. Mary Bernardasci is a member of this Local Union, working at Spiegl Foods Company.

Sister Flossie Gilmer of 1050 Juanita Boulevard is ill at home; it would be appreciated if friends of Flossie would visit her while she is confined.

* * *

VETS NEWS

Veteran-students who acquire dependents or additional dependents while in training under the GI Bill should notify Veterans Administration as soon as possible, so that VA can determine whether they are eligible for increased subsistence payments.

Notice of change in dependency status should be sent to the VA Regional Office in which the veterans' records are kept. The notice should be accompanied by legal evidence of dependents, such as a certified copy of public record of birth, baptism or marriage.

Subsistence payments will be increased as of the date legal evidence is received by VA, and will not be made retroactive to the date the veteran actually acquired the dependent.

Monthly subsistence allowances for veterans studying full-time in school are $75 for those without dependents, $105 for those with one dependent, and $120 for those with more than one dependent.

* * *

Any veteran whose eligibility for GI Bill education runs out after he completes at least half of a school semester which is normal in cost may complete the remainder of the semester at government expense, Veterans Administration said.

The veteran also will receive subsistence allowances for the remainder of the semester.

* * *

QUESTION: I intend to enter school under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act in January. When should I apply for my certificate of eligibility?

ANSWER: If you wish to enter training under the G-I Bill, you should apply for your certificate of eligibility at least 30 days before the enrolment date.

* * *

QUESTION: What assistance can be given me by VA in furthering my claim for compensation when the official records are not available or are incomplete?

ANSWER: VA contact representatives are authorized by law to aid claimants in the preparation and presentation of claims. Your contact representative will assist you in preparing an affidavit giving complete history of sickness or injury.

* * *

QUESTION: I am a World War II veteran and would like to know if a medical examination is necessary before my claim, filed at discharge, can be rated?

ANSWER: It is not necessary if the service records give sufficient information in your claim filed at discharge, or if a claim is filed within six months after discharge.

* * *

QUESTION: Is there a time limit in which I, a World War I veteran, may file a claim for compensation for disability caused by my war service?

ANSWER: There is no time limit for filing claim for compensation. However, if a claim for disability compensation is not filed within one year from date of release from active service, compensation may not be awarded for any period prior to date of claim.

The Wetbacks Are Forming

EL PASO, Tex.—The wetbacks are forming on the other side of the Rio Grande for their annual crossing into this country. From the far corners of Mexico they come in one long stream to the banks of the river that separates their country from the land of the dollar.

The wetback is a Mexican who swims or wades the Rio Grande in the darkness of spring and summer evenings in the hope of getting a job in the southwest. For the past eight years his hopes have been well rewarded: a huge number of Mexican nationals have illegally entered the country to take jobs in the cotton, beet sugar and fruit fields.

DISPLACE THOUSANDS

The jobs they take have displaced thousands of American farm workers, creating one of the most acute labor problems in the southwest. The American farm worker, who is usually of Mexican ancestry, cannot compete with his lower-priced Mexican brother. Therefore, it's the Mexican national who gets the jobs.

One of the reasons the wetback has been fortunate is the working agreement between the U.S. Immigration Service and southwestern farmers. The service usually turns its back when the wetbacks cross into this country. Only a token number are arrested and sent back to their native land.

PLENTY OF AMERICANS

While the farmers had an excuse for their use of Mexican labor during the war, their excuse is no longer the scarcity of American workers. They say they cannot afford to pay high wages to Americans and so must hire Mexicans willing to work at extremely low rates.

Results of this agreement and the laxity of the government have been bad for both the American worker and the Mexican national.

The American farm laborer has been forced to work for lower wages to try to meet those asked by the Mexican. Since he cannot possibly hope to live adequately on those wages, he has become one of the nation's lower-income laborers on the solution of whose problems the government must spend millions of dollars annually.

BLACK EYE ON U.S.

The Mexican national is the object of intense discrimination in the southwest. He is forced to live in hovels and faces a segregation system as sweeping as that confronting Negroes. So flagrant is the discrimination that the Mexican government has placed Texas on a blacklist and refuses to permit Mexicans to work in the Lone Star State.

The tales the Mexican national takes back to his country when the season ends do not help this country. Our Latin American relations have been seriously damaged as a result.

The AFL and other labor groups are trying to force the government to stem the stream of wetbacks across the Rio Grande. Labor wants an end to the illegal immigration which has forced American farm laborers in the southwest to exist on substandard wages because of their inability to compete with the Mexicans.

One-third of U. S. homes lack either cooking equipment, a kitchen sink, or a bath-tub-shower, according to the Census Bureau.

In 1939 corporate profits before taxes were $6.5 billion. In 1948 the total take was $34 billion.

S.F. Food Prices Rise in April

The level of prices paid for food in April by moderate income workers' families in San Francisco bounced up 2.7 per cent over that for mid-March. According to Max D. Kossoris, Regional Director, Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor, the April index of food prices was 222.1 against 216.3 for the preceding month. The increase erased the downward changes during February and March, and brought the April index fairly close to that for January.

Increases were fairly general for the components of the index. The few decreases were for fats and oils, off 4.1 per cent, canned fruits and vegetables, off 3.1 per cent, dairy products, off 1.1 per cent, and cereals and bakery products, down 0.1 per cent. But meat prices jumped 4.1 per cent, with lamb prices spurting by 18.1 per cent, beef and veal following more modestly by 2.4 per cent, and chickens by 2.0 per cent. Fish prices, on the other hand, were off 2.2 per cent, and pork prices were nearly stable, down 0.1 per cent.

Fresh fruits and vegetables also advanced sharply, by 7.8 per cent. Substantially higher prices were reported for example, for lettuce and oranges, with increases of 10 per cent and 16 per cent respectively. Eggs were up 3.0 per cent to an average of nearly 63 cents a dozen. Sugar was higher by 2.1 per cent, and beverage prices advanced slightly, 0.2 per cent.

The April index was slightly above that for April a year ago (1.2 per cent), and fully 2½ times the immediate prewar level.

The increase in the national food price index from March to April was 0.6 per cent.

Former AFL Official Named to U. S. Position

Washington.—Abraham Al Desser, former director of the Labor-Management Division of the American Arbitration Association, has been named consultant on labor problems for the National Security Resources Board.

Desser was once supervisor of collective bargaining research at the National Industrial Conference Board and taught courses on contract negotiations at Rutgers and New York University.

He was also at one time international representative for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and later carried on similar work for the National Staff of the AFL.

Big Play in Press

Oxford, Mich.—When Neshaminy Golden Boy, $16,000 prize bull owned by Pres. C. E. Wilson of General Motors Corp. met death after a 5-hour spinal operation near here, The Detroit News gave Golden Boy the biggest death notice in its issue of May 18.

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Election
Monday June 6th



MAKING HISTORY—Assemblyman Leroy J. Simmons (D., Milwaukee) makes history in Wisconsin as he is the first Nego to preside over a session of the legislature. A luncheon was held in his honor after the session.

From 1939 to 1948, corporate profits increased 423 per cent before taxes. Total wage and salary payments went up 194 per cent.

Farm employment, which was 9,600,000 before the war, declined to about eight million in 1949.

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'Job Security' A Gov't Duty

NEW ORLEANS, La.—Job security is a basic and fundamental labor function for which Government, working in cooperation with labor and industry, has a tremendous responsibility, Under Secretarytary of Labor Michael J. Galvin said here.

Speaking before the annual convention of the International Association of Public Employment Services, Galvin added that within the Federal Government, the United States Department of Labor is responsible for the administration of programs involving labor functions. "It has always been our opinion that the Wagner-Peyser Act, which created the U. S. Employment Service, properly placed that agency in the U. S. Department of Labor," he said.

STABILIZE, ADVANCE

The Under Secretary also pointed out that employment stabilization is an integral part of our total pattern to advance the interests of wage earners so that they may engage in economically useful pursuits, maintain purchasing power, and improve their standards of living.

He emphasized that the job placement process—the means by which jobseekers and employment opportunities are brought together—assumes ever-increasing importance with the greater complexity of our industrial and agricultural economy. "In the final analysis, jobs and job-seekers are brought together in local communities," he stated. "The local offices in this Federal-State employment system represent our 'first line of attack' in achieving the maximum employment objectives."

Galvin commended the Association of PES on their concentrating on community acceptance of their program. "Without community acceptance, your program cannot succeed," he said.

Other services which Galvin said should be provided by the employment program are employment counseling, current information on the labor market, employment and unemployment trends, job opportunities, and long-range occupational outlook.

How to Ruin An Organization

(Reprint from
Mid-Manhattan, Jan. 1949)

Do not come to the meetings . . but if you do come, come late.

If you attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and other members.

Never accept an office, as it is easier to criticize than to do things.

Nevertheless, get sore if you are not appointed, but if you are, don't attend the committee meetings.

If asked by the chairman to give your opinion regarding some important matter, tell him you have nothing to say. After the meeting, tell everyone how things ought to be done.

Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but when other members roll up their sleeves, and willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help matters along, howl that the organization is run by a clique.

Do not bother about getting new members. Let the secretary do it.

When a banquet is given, tell everybody money is being wasted on blowouts which make a big noise, and accomplish nothing.

When no banquets are given, say the organization is dead, and needs a tin can tied to it.

Do not tell the organization how it can help you, but if it does not help you, resign.

Agree with everything said at a meeting, and disagree with it outside.

Get all the organization gives, but do not give the organization anything.

Take cooperation from the other fellow, but never cooperate with him.

When everything else fails, blame the officers.

Kentucky is excelled only by North Carolina in the culture of fine tobacco.



THOUSANDS MOURN SLAIN ORGANIZER—Gathered to pay final tribute, 100,000 men and women jammed the streets outside New York's Manhattan Center where funeral services were held for William Lurye, slain organizer of the Intl. Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL). Lurye was stabbed to death in a phone booth while organizing open shops. Shown at funeral, Mrs. Beatrice Lurye, his widow, sons Leonard (l.), 14, Bernard, 16, and a friend, Mrs. Charlotte Zimmerman.

Doctors Are Too Few and Too Expensive for Most People

Washington.—The problems in the way of improving the health of the American people are primarily economic, not medical, a Senate subcommittee was told May 23 by Acting Federal Security Administrator J. Donald Kingsley. The subcommittee, headed by Sen. James E. Murray (D., Mont.), is part of the committee on labor and public welfare.

"First is the problem of manpower and facility shortages," Kingsley told the senators. "Second, the problem of manpower and facility distribution; and underlying all others, **the problem of inadequate medical purchasing power in the hands of a substantial proportion of our families."**

Outlining in a general statement the main features of the Administration's health bill (S-1679) under questioning by Senator Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio), Kingsley discussed these features: the education of new doctors, dentists, technicians and nurses; encouragement of medical research; hospital construction; special medical aid to rural areas; aid to states for local health work, and prepaid personal health insurance.

CHARITY MEDICINE

Most of these features, outside the insurance program, also are embodied in other bills before Congress. A substitute for the insurance feature, backed by Taft and a group of other senators, is contained in bills which supporters of the Administration measure call **"charity medicine bills." They would limit benefits largely to person's taking a pauper's oath.**

To illustrate the maldistribution of doctors and hospitals in the U. S. today, Kingsley said: "The 12 states with the highest ratio of doctors to population average one doctor to every 667 persons. But the 12 poorest states in this respect average only one doctor to every 1,223 of their citizens."

Kingsley said FSA estimates the insurance program would be financed by a three per cent payroll tax, of which the employer and worker each would pay one and one-half per cent. The self-employed would pay two and one-quarter per cent of annual income up to $4,800, a percentage which Kingsley said "is purely arbitrary."

HEARINGS UNTIL JULY

Taft, an opponent of the Administration program, but cautious in using the meat-ax approach to social welfare programs in recent months, questioned the methods of control of the insurance program, suggesting that it might be "run from top to bottom by Washington." He is expected to question most sharply the many witnesses from government, labor, professional and religious groups scheduled to testify at hearings lasting to July 1.

House hearings on companion bills, which opened May 20, will run side-by-side with the Senate subcommittee sessions.

Carpenters Get Increase

Philadelphia.—A four-day strike of more than 7,000 carpenters in the Philadelphia area ended in agreement on a wage boost of 15 cents an hour.

Representatives of the Metropolitan District Council of Carpenters (AFL), meeting with officers of the General Building Contractors Association in the latter's headquarters, agreed to send their men back to work at the usual starting time at an hourly rate of $2.40.

U. S. consumers spent $3 billion less in the first quarter of 1949 than in the fourth quarter of 1948. Business expenditures declined $4 billion in the same period.

No Fear of Socialism

Washington.—We have nothing to fear from Socialism, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin told his radio audience in a program sponsored here by the National Broadcasting Company in cooperation with the United States Department of State.

"Personally, I can't see what the Socialist philosophy has to offer a country like the United States, which has produced the highest standard of living in the world, and become the leader of the free community of nations," Tobin declared.

He also explained the "exchange of persons" program, which is one of the Labor Department's programs in international labor relations. Under this system, groups of foreign workers and trade union officials are brought to this country to study our methods of work, and to get acquainted with our trade unions. Tobin added that we also send groups of workers and union officials abroad. "Every day I am more convinced of the value of first-hand observation, the value of this exchange of persons," the Secretary emphasized.

Success of the Marshall Plan was discussed by Alfred Friendly of ECA, who has been in Europe with ECA for several months. "There is plenty of evidence that the Marshall Plan has been a boon to the European worker—even in its first year," he said. He added that the increase in key commodities such as coal, steel, food and clothing have made a real difference in the standard of living of workers.

Secretary Tobin also called attention to the need for labor attaches, who now number 24. He said he believed 40 would be a modest estimate of the number we need. These attaches are actually members of the Foreign Service but report to both the State Department and the Department of Labor.

Labor Institute to Open June 13 at Rutgers U.

New Brunswick, N. J.—Labor's responsibility in building a democratic world will be examined by members of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor at their 19th Annual Labor Institute convening on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University June 13 through 16, it was announced.

Among the outstanding subjects in the 4-day program are: Guiding Ourselves Toward Democracy, Can We Achieve World Recovery, Using Atomic Energy Constructively, Developing a Sound Tax Program, Labor Legislation in the 81st Congress, A National Health Insurance Plan, New Jersey Attacks the Housing Problem, and Labor in the Community.

Alexander Graham Bell, Scottish-American scientist and inventor of the telephone, was born in Edinburg in 1847 and died in 1922. He was, also, an authority on elocution and speech.

DEMAND THE UNION LABEL.

Worst Habit Is Laxatives

Americans have a lot of bad habits. Perhaps the worst is the laxative habit. It has been claimed that we spend over $50 million a year on laxatives. Practically all of this is pure waste.

The widespread use of laxatives is the result of many years of advertising in newspapers, magazines and on the radio. The claims made by the advertisers have no basis in fact. The truth is that laxatives are usually not needed, they can be harmful, and can actually cause constipation.

At one time doctors used to prescribe laxatives much more than they do today. Nowadays doctors are very careful about prescribing laxatives. Of course, most people don't know this; all they know is what the advertisers din into their ears day after day.

NO GOOD FOR COLD

One of the worst American habits is taking a laxative when you have a cold. This is sheer nonsense. Doctors know that recovery from a cold has nothing to do with "cleaning out" the bowel.

Children particularly are subjected to laxatives by their ignorant parents. Babies who don't have a bowel movement in a few hours after their usual time are given suppositories. Many children's nursery schools and camps have a barbarous habit of checking every day to see if each and every child has had a bowel movement.

Many old people also are addicted to laxatives. They use them regularly, once or twice a day, in order to make sure they have a bowel movement every day.

NOT DAILY NECESSITY

Actually there is no scientific basis for the popular notion that you must move your bowels every day to be healthy. There are many people who do not move their bowels every day, and who are perfectly healthy.

At one time the theory was widely held that failure to have a bowel movement every day caused "autointoxication." This five-dollar word means simply that poisons are formed in the intestine which are absorbed and harm the individual.

This theory of "autointoxication" is pure bunk. It has no scientific basis. The only people who benefit from belief in this theory are the drug companies.

The laxative habit is a good habit to stay away from. Laxatives can cause harm. They can also cause constipation by interfering with the normal activity of the intestines.

PLAYING WITH DEATH

If a person has a pain in the belly, and takes a laxative, he may be playing with death. If the pain is due to appendicitis, the laxative can cause the appendix to rupture.

Mineral oil acts as a lubricant, but it also has the effect of absorbing vitamins A and D and therefore depriving the body of these valuable food elements. Epsom salt and other salty cathartics interfere with water absorption and may even withdraw water from the body.

Castor oil acts by irritating the bowel, and therefore can't be called harmless. Phenolphthalein, which is used in many candy laxatives, can cause skin reactions or even more serious symptoms in people who are sensitive to it.

Calomel, a mercury compound which is widely used in the south, is dangerous to use without medical advice, because of the possibility of mercury poisoning. Rhubarb, aloin and senna are irritants; also, they may appear in the milk of nursing mothers and upset the baby.

If you are worried about constipation, the only sensible thing is to see your doctor. Don't mistreat yourself with laxatives.

"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE"

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for Which it Stands, One Nation Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All.

This short and simple statement flashes into the mind of every American when he beholds the Stars and Stripes, no matter what the occasion. Most native born Americans have learned this pledge of allegiance in school and have memorized it since childhood.

This pledge is not to be taken as one which applies only in war time nor to be remembered only when the flame of patriotism burns at its whitest heat. The pledge is just as important in time of peace as it is in time of war, sometimes even more so.

The American Federation of Labor insists that all Central Labor Council meetings be opened by pledging Allegiance to the Flag and recommends that all Unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. do likewise.

The good Union member is a good American. In fact, he must be a good citizen; perform the duties of a citizen and avail himself of the privileges of citizenship.

Many Unions hold that applicants must also feel themselves obliged to "bear true allegiance to their Union." In the American Federation of Labor, such an obligation does NOT conflict with the member's allegiance to the Flag nor his duty towards the United States of America, as such things are REQUIRED by the American Federation of Labor.

"BOOST JOBLESS PAY, START PUBLIC WORKS"

Washington. — Pointing to a 50 per cent increase in unemployment over last year while profits zoom and workers' savings dwindle, the CIO executive board may 19 outlined an economic and wage policy aimed at averting depression.

A series of three resolutions adopted by the CIO leaders included recommendations that the government take the following steps: (1) increase unemployment compensation benefits, and extend them uniformly in all states; (2) improve the old age insurance system; (3) raise the minimum wage to $1 an hour; (4) gear the tax system to ability to pay; (5) start public works projects in areas hit hardest by unemployment and (6) extend loans to new industries and small business.

The resolutions said that high purchasing power can be maintained by industry's taking a low unit profit on a high volume of output. In adddition, wages should be raised, a federal housing program should be undertaken and the Brannan farm plan should be adopted, they said.

The board called on its member unions to set up machinery to take care of unemployed members' compensation problems. "These functions of local unions should be carried out under the direction of the CIO Full Employment Committee by Commmunity Services Committees, and they should be established for this purpose where they do not exist," the resolution said. In addition, it said, councils should set up special committees to protect the unemployed.

The resolution on wages said that "every effort should be made now to distribute national income so that the mass of American consumers can absorb our rising potential production. Price reductions and wage increases are essential to achieve that end.

"Business must forego its self-defeating objective of amassing exorbitant profits in the short run at the expense of its own long run welfare and that of the national economy."

Average weekly earnings in all manufacturing industries dipped in March 1949 to $53.37, some 2 per cent less than the February figure of $54.25.

All U. S. manufacturing companies made $470 per employe in 1939. The estimated 1948 profit per worker was $1481.

1947 Profits 11½ Billion!

Washington.—Net profits of U.S. manufacturing corporations went up to $11½ billion in 1948 from a 1947 level of $10.1 billion, a joint report by two government agencies stated May 22.

Summarizing their quarterly reports for the year, the Securities and Exchange Commission and Federal Trade Commission said this about 1948 profits:

1. The increase in profit rate over 1947 was limited to the largest size class of corporations, those with assets of more than $100 million. Their profit rate rose from 13.3 per cent in 1947 to 16.8 per cent in 1948. Corporations of the medium size class showed a lower profit rate, with the largest drop in profit rate seen among companies with assets of less than $250,000 each.

2. In general, consumers goods industries made a lower rate of profit in 1948 than in 1947, whereas producers goods industries did better. Aircraft companies did well after taking a loss in 1947, petroleum firms did 60 per cent better in 1948 than in 1947, motor vehicle company profits rose 40 per cent, and steel and iron companies did 35 per cent better.

3. The profit rate dropped most markedly among industries in the wearing apparel group, foods, leather products and paper.

While corporate profits after taxes went up 140 per cent in the 1945-48 period, real weekly manufacturing earnings, corrected for current consumer prices, dipped 10 per cent.

The factory workweek, which averaged 40.4 hours in May 1948, now averages 38.9 hours.

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